GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:310
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
Inclusion of Beneficiaries Under PDS
Sreeramulu Shri B.

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the migrant/seasonal workers are currently unable to procure essential food items from Public Distribution System (PDS) shops;
(b) if so, the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the Government proposes to make any provision to reach out to these poorest of the poor and homeless sections of the society; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)
(a) to (d): Government of India notified the National Food Security Act, 2013(NFSA) which inter alia provides for coverage of upto 75% of the rural population and upto 50% of the urban population of the country for receiving foodgrains at subsidized prices under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). This coverage has been delinked from poverty estimates and the eligible households covered comprise of Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households and Priority Households[PHH]. Respective State/UT Governments are required to identify beneficiaries under Priority Household (PHH) and AAY categories. Guidelines have been issued to State/UT Governments for identification of poorest of poor families as Antyodaya Families which include landless agriculture laborers, marginal farmers, rural artisans/craftsmen such as potters tanners, weavers, blacksmiths, carpenters, slum dwellers, persons earning their livelihood on daily basis eg. porters, coolies, rickshaw pullers, hand cart pullers, fruit/flower sellers, snake charmers, rag pickers, cobblers, destitute , households headed by widows/terminally ill persons/ persons aged 60 years or more with no means of subsistence or societal support, widows or terminally ill persons /disabled persons with no family or societal support or assured means of subsistence, primitive tribal households, HIV positive persons etc. Under the Act, Eligible beneficiaries are entitled to receive 5 kg of foodgrain per person per month for the PHH category and 35 kg foodgrain per household per month for AAY households at subsidized rate of Rs. 3/2/1 per kg for rice/wheat/coarsegrains respectively.
TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State/Union Territory (UT) Governments wherein the operational responsibilities for implementation of TPDS including issuing ration card, identification and reviewing the list of beneficiaries rest with the State/UT Governments concerned.
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